

House Republican Press Release

November 7, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Updates From Hartford



By State Representative John J. Ryan

Somehow it has gotten to be November already, and I assume that you have noticed that the General Assembly is **STILL** in assorted Special Sessions! I have to admit, this is **NOT** the time of year when I expect to be commuting back and forth to Hartford. As usual, there are many topics that we have not gotten to, so let us attempt to cover as many quick items as I can:

- The Special Sessions: unfortunately, the General Assembly continues to become nearly a full-time, year-round event; this does not make for orderly, efficient government, does not allow for a sensible public hearing process, and we are spending more of your tax dollars to accomplish little of substance. The point of a legislative off-season is to allow legislators to work and live in the real world with real constituents (and escape the artificial, insulated world of the State Capitol) and to utilize Special Sessions only for infrequent emergency situations!
- Next year's elections: does it seem that there is always another election looming ahead? Media hoopla has already started on the Governor's race a year from now, and the situation is finally coming into sharper focus. I assume that you noticed that Governor Rell has finally made it official that she will be running for a full term as Governor next fall, and with the extremely positive ratings that she has consistently had she will obviously be a formidable candidate. Most of the potential Democrat candidates (Blumenthal, Bysewicz, etc.) have already dropped out, probably reflecting Rell's strength, leaving the 2 mayors, Malloy of Stamford and DeStefano of New Haven as the choices as a gubernatorial opponent. I am assuming that DeStefano will get the nomination. It will be interesting to see what the strategy against Rell will be; early attempts to somehow attempt to connect her with the Rowland failings have fallen flat so far, and my guess is that the voters will continue to take a dim view of totally negative campaigning ploys like this.
- "Affordable housing": a topic that is old news in the rest of the State is finally making its way down to lower Fairfield County, after this "anti-local control" legislation had unfortunately become law 16 years ago; we will devote an entire column (or two?) to the background of this issue next time;
- We do not often get to comment on the media, and the impending retirement of Jim Murphy of News 12 Cablevision gives us a rare occasion to do so. After years as the government correspondent who does most of the coverage for Cablevision from Hartford, I can tell you than Jim has shown an extra-ordinary combination of expertise (he has an excellent comprehension of 'the system'), integrity (I cannot remember him ever coloring a story with his own views, even slightly), objectivity (I think it must be impossible to guess his personal philosophy, which often is very visible with some "journalists"), hard work (who **REALLY** wants to wait around until the late hours in Hartford to cover the state budget developments?) and most importantly that infectious Irish sense of humor that keeps the (not infrequent) absurdity of government in a healthy

perspective. Given the difficulty of covering the doings in Hartford in an area that is oriented to the metro New York market, Jim's departure will be very much a loss to us!

Please feel free to contact me with your concerns and issues. As your state representative, it is my job, and my priority to represent you and to make sure that your needs and concerns are addressed at the capitol. You can write to me at Room 4200, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591, send me e-mail at John.Ryan@housegop.state.ct.us or call my office toll-free at 1-800-842-1423.